Ban on technology and materials

1885. SHRI B.K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether India's inability to expand its present nuclear power generation capacity, which cover only 3 per cent of our total requirements is due to inadequate supplies of uranium and technological assistance coupled with embargo by a cartel called Nuclear Suppliers Group (NSG);

(b) whether the NSG operates a blanket ban on technology and materials trade with black-listed countries, including India; and

(c) If so, whether US has offered civilian nuclear energy cooperation with India which could lead the NSG to reconsider the ban currently in force?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI RAO INDERJIT SINGH): (a) and (b) No, Sir. India has formulated a comprehensive indigenous three-stage nuclear power programme to expand its nuclear power generating capacity to 20,000 MW by the year 2020. International cooperation can supplement our indigenous efforts. However at present the Nuclear Suppliers' Group (NSG) guidelines prevent trade in nuclear technology and materials with India. According to these guidelines such items can be supplied to a non-nuclear-weapon State only when that State has brought into force an agreement with the IAEA requiring the application of safeguards on all its current and future peaceful activities.

(c) The Joint Statement issued during the recent visit of Prime Minister to the US, states *inter-alia* "the United States will work with friends and allies to adjust international regimes to enable full civil nuclear energy cooperation and trade with India, including but not limited to expeditious consideration of fuel supplies for safeguarded nuclear reactors at Tarapur. In the meantime, the United States will encourage its partners to also consider this request epeditiously".

Accident in CCL mine in Hazaribagh

1886. SHRI LALIT SURI:
SHRI DARA SINGH CHAUHAN:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether a number of workers got trapped inside the Central Coal Fields Ltd. (CCL) Saunda mine in Hazaribagh on the 14th June, 2005;